

IN THE CLAIMS:

The text of all pending claims, (including withdrawn claims) is set forth below. Cancelled and not entered claims are indicated with claim number and status only. The claims as listed below show added text with underlining and deleted text with ~~strikethrough~~. The status of each claim is indicated with one of (original), (currently amended), (cancelled), (withdrawn), (new), (previously presented), or (not entered).

Please AMEND claims 6-8, 21-23 and ADD new claims 25-26 in accordance with the following:

1. (CANCELLED)

2. (CANCELLED)

3. (CANCELLED)

4. (CANCELLED)

5. (CANCELLED)

6. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method in a printing apparatus which has a plurality of paper feed inlets and a plurality of paper discharge outlets, establishes a plurality of operating relationships with a plurality of devices in parallel and prints using one of the plurality of operating relationships in accordance with a print request from a plurality of devices, comprising :

establishing relevant operating relationships independently selected from the plurality of operating relationships with the respective devices; and print requesting device;

assigning specifying a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each of the operating relationship-relationships, respectively, and storing specified paper feed inlets and paper discharge outlets in a table; and

assigning a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each of the established operating relationships based on the contents stored in the table.

7. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein a paper discharge outlet is ~~specified~~ assigned for each operating relationship, so that the same

paper discharge outlet is not assigned in ~~a~~the plurality of operating relationships.

8. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein a paper feed inlet and a paper discharge outlet for each operation relationship, are assigned by a panel operation.

9. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein the states of the operating relationships are displayed in a list.

10. (CANCELLED)

11. (CANCELLED)

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20. (CANCELLED)

21. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A printing control method in an apparatus which has feed inlets and discharge outlets, and prints in accordance with a print request from a plurality of devices, comprising:

establishing more than one operating relationship with a plurality of devices in parallel, wherein each relationship is established independently with each of the respective devices; and

assigning a feed inlet and a discharge outlet specified in advance for each operating relationship.

22. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A control method according to claim 21, wherein ~~said assigning comprises specifying~~ a discharge outlet is specified for each operating relationship, so that the same discharge outlet is not assigned in a plurality of operating relationships.

23. (CURRENTLY AMENDED) A control method according to claim 21, wherein ~~said establishing comprises assigning~~ a feed inlet and a discharge outlet are specified for each operating relationship by a panel operation.

24. (PREVIOUSLY PRESENTED) A control method according to claim 21, further comprising displaying the states of the operating relationships in a list.

25. (NEW) A printing control method according to claim 6, wherein each of the operating relationships is a logical printer.

26. (NEW) A printing apparatus, comprising:
feed inlets and discharge inlets;
a printer engine to print on a sheet of paper; and
a printer controller to establish more than one operating relationship with a plurality of devices in parallel, wherein each operating relationship is established independently with each of the respective devices, and to print in accordance with a print request from the plurality of devices by using a feed inlet and a discharge outlet specified in advance for each operating relationship.
